

To the people in my district, the safety of pipelines is absolutely essential. My constituents were witnesses to a horrible tragedy that they carry with them, even four years later, fears they had never before imagined. In a way however, they were also witnesses to a miracle: only one person lost her life in the accident, tragically suffering a heart attack, and most residents escaped without injury. Certainly, in light of the total devastation of the area, the potential for a greater number of fatalities is apparent.

The Edison accident, like the majority of pipeline accidents, was caused by third party damage. Often times, excavators do not know what is buried beneath their work sites. This ignorance can lead to fatal and expensive consequences. The bill we are introducing today proposes three simple solutions to this problem: before they begin digging, all excavators should call a central phone number to learn whether there are any underground facilities at the excavation site. All facility operators should participate in One-Call programs, and, once notified, should accurately mark any underground facilities. Finally, states should strongly enforce their One-Call laws to encourage maximum participation in One-Call programs. These simple measures can save lives, prevent property damage, and prevent the need for expensive repairs.

More than anything else, One-Call is about prevention. One telephone call can prevent explosions like the Edison accident. One telephone call can prevent the death of an excavator digging near a gas line. One telephone call can prevent the contamination of the environment by a ruptured hazardous liquid or sewer line. One telephone call can prevent the need for expensive repairs to fiber optic cables. As another example, shortly after the pipeline incident in my district, a cut in an electric line at Newark airport by a contractor resulted in closure of the Airport for nearly 24 hours. One-Call programs—and this bill—would prevent this type of accident.

Today, 49 States have some kind of One-Call system, but Federal action is necessary, as demonstrated by the accidents mentioned above. Many current state systems are inadequate. Some provide exemptions for certain types of excavators. Some fail to cover all underground facilities. Some states have incredibly complex enforcement mechanisms, and some states don't bother to enforce One-Call laws at all. This bill recommends a program that will be successful. The key to this success is the concept of participation by all excavators and facility operators. Excavators will be assured that they are digging in a safe place, and facility operators have insurance that their lines will not be damaged.

This bill encourages States to improve their One-Call programs. It contains no mandate that States adopt such a system. Instead, it provides grants to States that choose to institute the principles of this bill and develop effective one-call systems. I believe that once states delve deeply into this issue they will conclude, as I have, that a comprehensive One-Call system is a life-saving device that should be a part of any public safety program.

With this bill, we have an opportunity to prevent accidents like the Edison explosion in every community in this country. Let us take the explosion that awoke the residents of the Durham Woods Apartment Complex in Edison as a wake up call to us. Pass one-call.

HONORING THE BIRTH OF ABBEY DEENA TO DR. HERBERT LEPOR AND DR. ELLEN SHAPIRO

### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 1998*

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House that on February 25, 1998, Dr. Herbert Lepor and Dr. Ellen Shapiro became the proud parents of a baby daughter, Abbey Deena. Abbey Deena was born at The New York Presbyterian Hospital and she weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces. The best news of all is that Abbey Deena and her mother are in perfect health.

I am proud to be able to call Dr. Lepor and Dr. Shapiro my good friends. Dr. Shapiro is an internationally renowned Pediatric Urologist and is the Director of Pediatric Urology at New York University Medical Center. She received her medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, was a surgical intern and resident at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and a Clinical Associate in the Surgery Branch of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. She was a fellow in Pediatric Urology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan and was Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine and at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Prior to moving to New York City, she practiced Pediatric Urology at the Children's Hospital of St. Louis and the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Dr. Lepor has been Chairman of Urology at New York University School of Medicine since 1993. During that time he has established one of the preeminent centers of urological care, education and research in America. Dr. Lepor graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) at the age of 20. He earned his medical degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed Urology Residency Training at the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Lepor is a nationally renowned expert on prostate treatment and has written numerous scientific articles and books on that topic. He performs more radical prostatectomies a year than any other surgeon in the tri-state area. He has been recognized by American Health magazine and New York Magazine for his expertise in prostate cancer.

At the time of their marriage, Dr. Lepor and Dr. Shapiro were the only husband and wife Urology team in America. More important than any of their professional abilities, however, they are outstanding people who care deeply about their patients and give untiringly of themselves.

As happy as Dr. Lepor and Dr. Shapiro are over the birth of their beautiful daughter, I know that Abbey Deena will soon realize how fortunate she is to have such outstanding parents. On behalf of myself and my family I wish them the very best of health and happiness.

HONORING HENRY STEELE COMMAGER

### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of a great historian and teacher, Henry Steele Commager. His contributions to our nation during the twentieth century are beyond measure. He taught generations of Americans to respect the genius that lay behind one of the greatest documents in world history, the United States Constitution. Mr. Commager died on Monday, March 2, 1998 at the age of 95. It is difficult for me to believe that such a prolific American historian is gone.

When I was a student at Amherst College, I had the honor of having Mr. Commager as an instructor. This brilliant scholar reminded his students about the unique circumstances and rare, combined genius that existed when our republic was created. In addition, he worked tirelessly to awaken a true respect for and commitment to our government institutions from his students. Under his tutelage, I came to learn about the power of our Constitution and the importance of its structure in every facet of our government. I believe Mr. Commager's tireless passion led many young people such as myself to public service. Moreover, I firmly believe he showed many of his students how to be active citizens committed to fighting apathy in the American electorate.

Mr. Commager encouraged all politicians not to be afraid of their moral convictions and to vote on the principles that originally elected them to office. He was a strong-willed man with the singular courage to pursue the hearts and minds of all Americans. His writings were not limited to the academic world, rather he actively sought to engage all individuals and rouse in them a passion for our history, our founding fathers, and our institutions of government. Henry Steele Commager dedicated himself and his life's work to preserving our Constitution.

I know that Henry Steele Commager will be missed by lawmakers in both chambers who were influenced by his many writings, particularly *The Growth of the American Republic*. The breadth of his work and its lasting legacy will always serve as a reminder of Mr. Commager's patriotism and the strength of his commitment to democratic principles. My deepest condolences go to Henry Commager's family, his wife Mary Powesland and his children. Recent articles in both *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Times* illustrates Mr. Commager's contributions to our nation.

[From the Washington Post]

Henry Steele Commager, 95, one of the leading scholars of U.S. history, died March 2 at his home in Amherst, Mass. The cause of death was not reported.

Dr. Commager taught U.S. history at colleges and universities for more than a half-century. Since the 1930's, he had maintained a torrential outpouring of writing aimed not only at sophisticated scholars but also at undergraduates, high school students and the general reader. He had the gift, rare in an academic, of being able to seemingly effortlessly translate historically complex matters into supremely lucid and deceptively simple prose.

Generations of his readers learned that their country was truly admirable and that, if it sometimes stumbled, it always righted itself. Dr. Commager, who called himself an independent Democrat, wrote with the faith of a Jeffersonian liberal in the aims and abilities of the American people and clearly admired the nation's past.

As a champion of the U.S. Constitution, once calling it the "greatest monument to political science in literature," he wrote of this country's greatness as not unrelated to the sweeping growth of social justice.

He lectured Americans not only in classrooms but also in some of the best-received general history texts of his time. He may be best known for "The Growth of the American Republic," written with Samuel Eliot Morison and published by the Oxford University Press in 1931. Noted historian Allan Nevins hailed the book as "the most entertaining, stimulating and instructive single-volume history of the United States as yet written."

Dr. Commager and Nevins collaborated on the work's 10th edition, which was published in 1987.

In 1941, Dr. Commager co-wrote "Our Nation," which became a leading high school U.S. history text. In 1942, he and Nevins co-wrote "America: The Story of a Free People," a best-selling book for the lay reader that covered U.S. history from the first British settlers to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

In addition to immensely popular general histories, Dr. Commager also wrote on more specialized topics. These included a 1936 biography of a pre-Civil War New England theologian and abolitionist, and such philosophical offerings as "The American Mind," "Freedom, Loyalty and Dissent," "The American Character" and "The Empire of Reason."

He also was a prodigious editor, making historic writing more accessible to the general reader. Works he edited included Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America," Benjamin Franklin's "Autobiography" and Francis Parkman's "The Oregon Trail."

He once maintained that his most significant work may have been his now-legendary "Documents of American History," first published in 1934. Growing to more than 600 documents, its 10th edition was published in 1988.

Dr. Commager was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in Chicago. Orphaned before he was 10 years old, he was raised by a grandfather, a Chicago clergyman. The future historian began earning his living at age 15 by working in a local library.

He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and master's and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Chicago. He also received a master's degree in politics from Oxford University in England and attended the University of Copenhagen.

During World War II, he worked for the Office of War Information in Europe and also was an official Army historian. He taught history at New York University from 1926 to 1938 and then at Columbia University before joining the faculty at Amherst College in the 1950's.

As a teacher, Dr. Commager promoted discussion if not downright battles in the classroom. A champion of civil liberties, he had tangled with Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) in the 1950's over the professor's opposition to loyalty oaths.

Even in the 1980's, he continued to lecture politicians on history and civil liberties, quoting Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes to the effect that "we should be ever receptive to loathsome ideas."

George McGovern, the former South Dakota senator and Democratic presidential candidate, who once taught history with one

of Dr. Commager's popular texts, told the Associated Press that the historian's public pronouncements helped sway policy makers to question the Vietnam War.

"He certainly influenced me in making certain that I was on the right track. My own instincts and reading and study convinced me of that. To have a person of the status of Henry Steele Commager saying the same thing was very reinforcing," McGovern said.

Over the years, Dr. Commager wrote for such publications as Current History, the Atlantic Monthly and the Nation. History, however, reported that he owned at least a thousand classical record albums, which he played while working.

Dr. Commager also was enthusiastic about sports. He had written works on baseball and was a rabid college football fan. At least one parent of an Amherst graduate recalls Dr. Commager shouting "advice" from the stands, in no uncertain terms, to an embattled Amherst football coach.

Dr. Commager was a member of numerous historical societies, as well as Phi Beta Kappa, and the American Scandinavian Society.

[From the Washington Times]

Henry Steele Commager, a prolific American historian who championed the Constitution as a model of political genius, died yesterday at the age of 95.

Mr. Commager, who died at his home in Amherst, wrote a body of works spanning much of this nation's history. But his best-known work was "The Growth of the American Republic," which in various revised versions served as a standard college text for generations of students.

His impact went far beyond fellow historians and students. Mr. Commager wrote as much for the popular press as for the scholarly journals. In both arenas, he championed principles of the Constitution, which he called the "greatest monument to political science in literature."

The self-described independent Democrat also did not shy at lecturing Congress and presidents about what he viewed as their moral and constitutional obligations.

Mr. Commager was John Woodruff Simpson lecturer at Amherst College—a post previously held by poets Robert Frost and Archibald McLeish. Before coming to Amherst in 1956, he was on the faculty of New York University and Columbia University.

He also held chairs in American history at Cambridge University and Oxford University. He lectured at universities in Latin America, Japan, Israel and most of the countries of Western Europe.

Mr. Commager, who earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1928, also wrote "Theodore Parker," 1936; "Majority Rule and Minority Rights," 1943; "The Story of the Second World War," 1945; "The American Mind," 1951; "The Commonwealth of Learning," 1968; "Jefferson, Nationalism and Enlightenment," 1975; "The Empire of Reason," 1977; and "This Day and Generation," with Edward Kennedy, 1979.

In 1934, he edited "Documents of American History," a compilation of nearly 500 writings. The 10th edition was published in 1988.

"The Growth of the American Republic" was written with Samuel Eliot Morison in 1931. Mr. Commager collaborated with Alan Nevins on the 10th edition published in 1987.

Born in Pittsburgh and orphaned before his 10th birthday, Mr. Commager was raised by his grandfather, a Chicago clergyman. He said he began earning his living at the age of 15 by working in a library.

Mr. Commager married Evan Carroll in 1928, and they had three children. He married Mary Powlesland in 1979.

She survives him. His other survivors include two daughters.

## TRIBUTE TO THE QUARTER BACKERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Quarter Backers Club of Southampton Hospital, who for 20 years have poured their hearts and valuable time into helping the hospital acquire the most technologically advanced, life saving medical equipment and services for the East End, Long Island community.

As a lifelong resident of the Long Island Town of Southampton, I am very proud to count the Quarter Backers as my personal friends and neighbors, men and women whose commitment to our home town knows no bounds. Motivated solely by the selfless desire to help Southampton Hospital provide the best medical care available, the Quarter Backers have raised and donated more than \$100,000 annually for the purchase of the best diagnostic, therapeutic and emergency medical equipment in the industry. Their labors have produced the greatest fruit imaginable, for they have saved the lives and eased the suffering of countless numbers of their neighbors.

The brainchild of John Grattan, a member of the Hospital's Board of Directors who came up with the idea while he was a patient at the hospital, the group was christened the Quarter Backers because members offer quarterly contributions to Southampton Hospital. With the help of Richard J. Micallef, the current chairman of the Quarter Backers Steering Committee and a member from the beginning, John Grattan organized the many East End business men and women, community leaders and others who were committed to supporting the hospital. Born at Southampton Hospital 21 years ago, the Quarter Backers Club has grown into one of the most vital and active members of the hospital family.

Today, the Quarter Backers number more than 200, men and women from every walk of life who have helped Southampton Hospital adjust to rapid advancements in medical technology. They have raised funds to acquire cardiac diagnostic machines, expand the orthopedic sports medicine facilities and supply mammography equipment that formed Southampton Hospital's Breast Health Center. Collectively, the Quarter Backers are as integral to Southampton Hospital as the 120 staff physicians, sixty consulting doctors, nurses and other staff members in building a healthier East End.

More than just fundraisers, the Quarter Backers are the hospital's ambassadors to the East End, reaching out to their neighbors, business groups, local media and schools, building and cementing relationships with the community. Their devotion to Southampton Hospital and their commitment to saving lives and improving community health is all that motivates the members of the Quarter Backers. This is the reason why they have flourished and grown during two decades of service.